

I am writing you regarding the FCC's July 16, 2002 decision to extend the deadline for wireless local number portability (LNP) by one year. This changed the November 24, 2002 deadline to November 24, 2003. In FCC 02-215 In the Matter of Verizon Wireless's Petition for Partial Forbearance from the Commercial Mobile Radio Services Number Portability Obligation And Telephone Number Portability, the FCC granted the additional year claiming that this would provide more time to prepare for implementation. The first order regarding wireless LNP was issued in 1996, and since that time, six years have passed and yet the FCC sides against consumers' rights and extends the deadline by another year.

This means that I, like other wireless phone users, are forced to either stay with our original carrier regardless of service problems or rates that are not competitive. If we switch carriers, we are forced lose our current phone numbers which are quite valuable in both business and personal situations. If we switch carriers to seek better service, we face losing calls (business or personal) and additional costs for all printed materials with telephone numbers on them. I personally needed to switch carriers due to service issues and to seek a rate plan that was more consistent with my usage. To avoid losing my number, I have maintained the old phone as well and have all the calls being forwarded from one to the other. I was planning on this cost of duplicate phones ending on November 24, 2002. Now I will incur hundreds of dollars in additional expenses while I am forced to wait an additional year. These costs are obvious, but consumers also suffer from decreased competition due to users feeling trapped with a carrier since the number can't currently be transferred if they switched.

I urge the FCC to make no further extensions to the November 24, 2003 deadline. These highly technology based wireless providers have had ample time to see that this technology is in place and wireless LNP is implemented. The wireless companies have gotten years added to the original deadline. It is time to stick with a deadline and finely stand up for consumers who have been overlooked by continually siding with the wireless carriers. The wireless companies claim consumers don't want portability because it will cost them more. I have already spent over \$800.00 maintaining two phones for the last year and a half so that I don't lose my old number. The cost of implementing number portability will affect my bill far less. I, as a consumer speaking for consumers, oppose any further extension of the deadline for wireless number portability for any company.